



# Migratory Bird Management

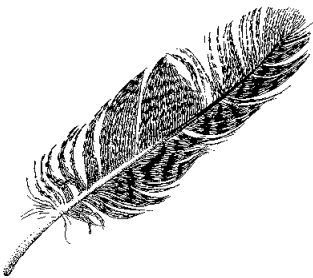
## *A Trust Responsibility*

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## Migratory Bird Management

### Mission

*To conserve migratory bird populations and their habitats for future generations, through careful monitoring and effective management.*



### The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bird Conservation

Migratory birds are some of nature's most magnificent resources. They play a significant ecological, economic, and cultural role in the U.S. and internationally. As such, the Service is directed by the United States Congress to ensure the perpetuation of migratory bird populations and their habitats. The Service's Migratory Bird Management Program exists to support this critical and challenging endeavor through careful monitoring and effective management.

### Responsibilities of the Migratory Bird Management Program

- Developing and implementing monitoring and management initiatives that help maintain healthy populations of all native migratory bird species and their habitats.
- Preventing any of these species from becoming threatened or endangered.
- Providing continued opportunities for citizens to enjoy bird-related recreation.

### Monitoring and Assessment of Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Management Program monitors over 800 bird species in North America. In some cases, these monitoring programs identify species and populations that may require additional management action, and allow biologists to evaluate the effects of human activities and natural conditions on the health of bird populations.

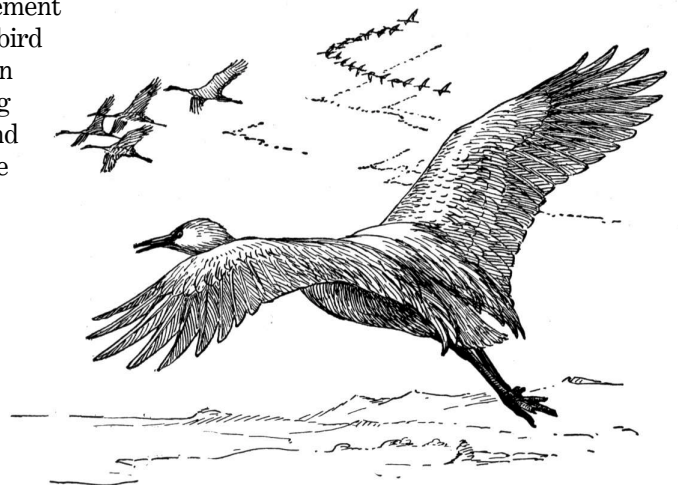
Overall, biologists conduct hundreds of annual surveys across key breeding, migration, and wintering areas in North America.

### Surveying Migratory Game Birds

The Service, along with the Canadian Wildlife Service, annually conducts one of the largest and most reliable wildlife surveys in the world to determine the status of North American waterfowl populations.

Additional efforts provide important status information on other hunted migratory bird species, such as doves, woodcock and sandhill cranes.

Approximately 110,000 waterfowl hunters are queried annually to determine hunting activity and success across the U.S. Data from these surveys, and from recovery information obtained each year from more than 350,000 harvested birds that are banded, also help in evaluating populations and setting waterfowl hunting regulations.



*Sandhill Cranes credit: Alan Brooks*

## Management through Planning and Technical Assistance

The Migratory Bird Management Program plays a central role in developing and implementing local, regional, national and international bird management plans. Areas of concentration include participation in the conservation initiatives of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, Partners In Flight (songbirds and other land species) and other partnership and planning programs; as well as assistance to private landowners, National Wildlife Refuges, and Joint Ventures of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

## Management Through Permits and Regulations

Two primary laws govern the Service's Migratory Bird Program. The *Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918* established a federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, on the possession, killing, sale, purchase or transport of any migratory bird or any part, nest or egg.

The *Bald Eagle & Golden Eagle Protection Act*, first passed in 1940, provides special protection for our Nation's symbol, the Bald Eagle. In 1962, Congress added extra protection for the Golden Eagle. Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle parts, nests, and eggs are all protected. Currently, the Migratory Bird Management Program is responsible for activities affecting the Golden Eagle and the Service's Division of Endangered Species oversees the Bald Eagle.

The Service is responsible for preparing the regulations that implement the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Under these Acts, the Service provides opportunities, through the issuance of permits and regulations, for organizations and individuals to participate in migratory bird activities, such as hunting, scientific research, rehabilitation of injured birds, education, falconry and taxidermy, as well as control of overabundant species.

The Service updates these regulations periodically to reflect the current status of migratory bird populations as well as the interests and needs of government agencies, the scientific community and the public.

## Migratory Bird Management Program Structure

### National Activities

The national program office, located in Arlington, Virginia, provides guidance on national, international and regional policy matters that directly relate to migratory bird management. The Division of Migratory Bird Management works in conjunction with Service Directorate, Regional Offices, and regional migratory bird program staff.

### Regional Activities

There are seven Service Regions. The Migratory Bird Management Program has biologists located in each Region to plan and implement program objectives, including policy guidance, issuance of migratory bird permits, participation in population monitoring and habitat conservation strategies, and outreach and education.

- Region 1 - Portland, Oregon
- Region 2 - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Region 3 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Region 4 - Atlanta, Georgia
- Region 5 - Hadley, Massachusetts
- Region 6 - Denver, Colorado
- Region 7 - Anchorage, Alaska



*Great Horned Owl*  
credit: Alan Brooks

## The Service and Bird Conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

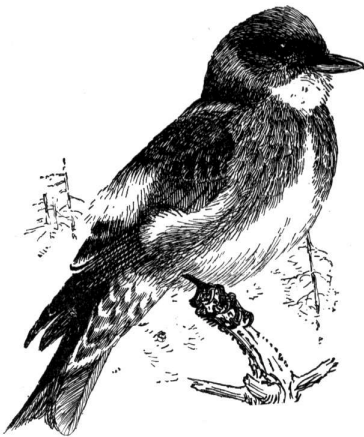
On a regional level, the Migratory Bird Management Program is centered around a cooperative, ecosystem-based approach to management, involving state and federal agencies, and the public and private sectors at all levels.

The *ecosystem approach* is designed to effectively conserve the natural diversity of species. To perpetuate healthy ecosystems that provide a high quality environment for fish and wildlife, we strive to accommodate the many important socioeconomic issues of our time. This approach works well with the ecology of migratory birds — species that typically are not restricted to single habitat types, states or even countries.

On national and international levels, the Migratory Bird Management Program is in the forefront of guiding and implementing the *North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)*. NABCI's primary role is to provide a forum to integrate the many bird conservation initiatives and programs throughout the hemisphere for the benefit of all birds and their habitats.

**For More Information:**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Division of Migratory Bird Management**  
**4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 634**  
**Arlington, VA 22203**  
**703 358 1714**  
**<http://birds.fws.gov>**

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*Olive Sided Flycatcher*  
credit: Alan Brooks